




Test your speaking skills

Im vierten Teil unserer **telc**-Reihe bieten wir Ihnen die Möglichkeit, Ihre mündliche Ausdrucksfähigkeit zu trainieren. **STEPHANIE SHELLABEAR** stellt hier Ausschnitte aus den mündlichen Prüfungen **telc Englisch B1** und **B2** vor und gibt Tipps für die erfolgreiche Vorbereitung. 

Did you make a New Year's resolution to improve your English this year? Perhaps you are already attending an English course with the aim of taking an examination. It is always good to have a certificate to show how far you have come in your language learning. In *Spotlight* issues 8/10, 3/11 and 8/11, we covered language that is tested in different parts of **telc** (see below) examinations: reading, grammar and listening. This month, we focus on speaking.

We're grateful to **telc** for allowing us to present to you the types of tasks you would be expected to carry out in the oral test section of their B1 and B2 exams. To help you do your best on exam day, we give you tips on preparing for this speaking test. In addition, we will tell you about our favourite tools for practising English outside the classroom.

You can listen to recorded examples of people taking part in a speaking test at www.spotlight-online.de/audio

What is telc?

telc is **The European Language Certificates**. **telc GmbH** belongs to the German Adult Education Association (*Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V.*, or **DVV**). It is the government's partner for the language test for immigrants (*Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer A2•B1*).

telc offers more than 60 different examinations in 10 European languages. You can take their tests in many *Volkshochschulen* and language schools in Germany, Austria and other countries. Go to www.telc.net for details of the examinations, extra practice material and the addresses of examination centres.

What will you have to do?

The examiners want to know how well you can

- express yourself;
- manage the tasks you are given;
- use grammar correctly;
- pronounce the language.

The format is similar in the B1 and B2 exams. There are normally two candidates — perhaps three at B2 level — who talk to each other. Two examiners are present to run the exam and also to listen and to evaluate your abilities.

The examination itself takes no more than 15 minutes with two candidates. There is always a period of 20 minutes before the official start of the examination in which you will receive your candidate sheets and be able to prepare what you want to say. While you are preparing yourself, you are not allowed to speak to the other candidates. You may take notes on the sheets you are given, but in the exam itself you are not allowed to read from your notes. At B2 level, you may use a dictionary to prepare. The oral examination counts for 75 of the maximum 300 points that can be gained in the whole **telc** exam.

B1

What can you do at level B1?

You can take part in conversations that have to do with the family, work, school, hobbies, etc. You can talk about your plans and hopes, and you can discuss current topics and give your opinions about them.

Part 1: Social contacts

This part tests whether you can participate in conversation, formulate questions correctly, and demonstrate to your conversation partner that you have understood him or her. You have three or four minutes to make small talk with the other person (whom you may know from your course), using the questions on the candidate sheet. These are always the same in **telc** exams at B1 level.

Candidate sheet

In this first part of the examination you will be asked to find out as much information as you can about the other candidate. Ask only for information you don't already know about the other person.

- his / her name
- where he / she lives
- where he / she comes from
- if he / she has ever been to other countries
- how long he / she has lived in the area
- details of his / her house or flat
- details of his / her family

